



CLAIMS

- 1. A method for representing an active computing environment comprising: encapsulating one or more active processes into said active computing environment;
- 5 and

encapsulating a system environment relating to said processes into said active computing environment.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said system environment comprises an associated state of said active processes.
 - The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 removing a process from said active computing environment when said process
 becomes inactive.

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- 4. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

 adding a process to said active computing environment when said process becomes active.
- 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:halting said active computing environment.
 - 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

 storing said active computing environment off-line in a non-volatile storage medium.

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- 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said non-volatile storage medium is a disk.
- 8. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a CPU state.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a file system state.

- 10. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a device state.
- 11. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a virtual memory state.
- 12. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises an inter-process communication state.
 - 13. A representation of an active computing environment comprising: one or more processes; and a system environment relating to said processes.
 - 14. The representation of claim 13 wherein said system environment comprises an associated state of said processes.
 - 15. The representation of claim 14 further comprising:

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a first modifier configured to remove a process from said active computing environment when said process becomes inactive.

- 16. The representation of claim 15 further comprising:
- a second modifier configured to add a process to said active computing environment when said process becomes active.
 - 17. The representation of claim 13 further comprising:
 a mechanism configured to halt said active computing environment.
 - 18. The representation of claim 17 further comprising:

 a non-volatile storage medium configured to store said active computing environment off-line.
- 15 The representation of claim 18 wherein said non-volatile storage medium is a disk.
 - 20. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a CPU state.
 - 21. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a file system state.

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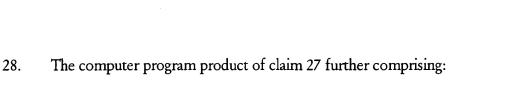
- 22. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a device state.
- The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a virtualmemory state.
 - 24. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises an interprocess communication state.
 - 25. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to represent an active computing environment, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to encapsulate one or more active processes into said active computing environment; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to encapsulate a system environment relating to said active processes into said active computing environment.

- 15 26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein said system environment comprises an associated state of said active processes.
- 27. The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising:
 computer readable code configured to cause a computer to remove a process from
 said active computing environment when said process becomes inactive.



computer readable code configured to cause a computer to add a process to said

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29. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising: computer readable code configured to cause a computer to halt said active computing environment.

active computing environment when said process becomes active.

- 30. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:

 computer readable code configured to cause a computer to store said active computing environment off-line in a non-volatile storage medium.
- 31. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein said non-volatile storage medium is a disk.
 - 32. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a CPU state.
- 20 33. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a file system state.
 - 34. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a device state.





- 35. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a virtual memory state.
- 5 36. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises an inter-process communication state.